

Annex: Policy and data gap assessments to inform 2030 Agenda implementation

Country	VNR Year	Description of good practice	Rationale
Albania	2018	<p>The United Nations Albania has recommended to the government the UN Rapid Integrated Assessment tool to mainstream the SDGs in the National Strategy for Integration and Development 2015-2020 (NSDI II) and in other national policies. The assessment outcome reflected the reference of the SDG target to the specific strategic priorities, objectives, and indicators. It showed around 60 percent alignment of the policies with the SDGs in Albania. Focusing on gaps, the assessment enabled the government to identify the priority areas of action in the Albanian context. Building on the assessment, institutions responsible for the priority targets were identified.</p> <p>In addition, a policy area assessment was conducted in 2017. The outcome of the assessment indicates that 140 SDG targets are directly tied to the NSDI II pillars that address the same policy areas in the country. The report also includes information on the scope of SDG alignment with policy documents, the number of indicators available for each goal and whether the medium and long-term targets have been reached. It also focuses on data gaps and limitations such as the number of indicators for which information was not available or judgment was impossible.</p>	The assessment was comprehensive and made use of the United Nations Rapid Integrated Assessment tool.
Armenia	2018	Armenia's policy efforts included review and analysis of strategies regulatory framework and social, environmental and economic indicators. It involved the review of not only the nation but also sector-specific policy documents in line with the national development strategy of Armenia 2014 - 2025. Although the analysis faced major data challenges, there were voluminous efforts in looking into specific social equity aspects. For example, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF Armenia in partnership with the National Statistical Services and line ministries generated data on child poverty, which includes baseline data on child-related SDG indicators with appropriate levels of disaggregation as part of the national development strategy. The dataset identifies gaps in data on children and proposes a way of collecting data to bridge the gaps in an attempt to create a monitoring framework for child-related SDGs.	The approach takes into account intergenerational equity through child-related SDG indicators.
Bangladesh	2017	Bangladesh included information on the number of available indicators for each SDG in its VNR report . This was done in the goal by goal analysis.	Transparency on available SDG indicators is good practice, including through VNR reporting.

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Benin	2017–18	Benin carried out assessments to identify sustainable development priorities, including national targets and indicators. The assessment of ministries' annual work plans showed that all 17 SDGs are being addressed by at least four ministries. Areas where greater efforts are needed to align actions with the SDGs were identified. The country also identified 49 priority targets for 2030 Agenda implementation. Municipalities were engaged in this process and provided inputs into the national approach to 2030 Agenda implementation.	Ensuring 2030 Agenda implementation is informed by relevant targets and indicators, and a clear understanding of data gaps is good practice. The selection of national priority targets is good practice in terms of ensuring ownership.
Bhutan	2018	Bhutan reviewed policies and data to examine alignment and integration for its Eleventh Five Year Plan for 2013–18 and the 17 SDGs as well as progress on implementation. Bhutan's VNR report classified SDG indicators in terms of whether they have been fully adopted, have been partially adopted, are relevant but not adopted or are not relevant to the country's context. The government then classified data availability against the SDG indicators in terms of whether data are available (regularly collected according to high standards), partially available (data available on an ad hoc basis) or not available. Notably, the VNR report included an assessment of progress towards each SDG in terms of whether their targets have been achieved, are on track to being achieved or at risk of not being achieved.	Ensuring 2030 Agenda implementation is informed by relevant targets and indicators, and a clear understanding of data gaps is good practice.
		Bhutan's 2016 Vulnerability Baseline Assessment set a baseline to track vulnerable groups and formulate appropriate policies to leave no one behind in 2030 Agenda implementation. The assessment identified those groups at risk of being left behind. Together with its 2016 Climate Vulnerability Assessment and 2018 Population and Housing Census, Bhutan is using the Vulnerability Baseline Assessment to better support vulnerable populations over 2017–22. Fourteen vulnerable groups were identified through the Vulnerability Baseline Assessment, which also looked at the causes of vulnerability, how policies and programs help or hinder groups at risk of being left behind, and opportunities for improvement.	Efforts to leave no one behind should be informed by evidence of who is left behind and how.
Denmark	2017	Denmark, the Baseline for the Global Goals in Denmark project was launched to establish baselines. Working closely with Local Government Denmark, a set of baselines for SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities was prepared through an inclusive consultation process.	Including local governments in baseline assessments to inform 2030 Agenda implementation is good practice.

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Egypt	2018	Egypt's VNR report included information on progress in implementing the SDGs in the goal-by-goal analyses using available indicators.	Inclusion of trend information in VNR reporting is good practice.
Estonia	2016	Estonia discussed the current status of and existing policy instruments for each of the 17 SDGs in its VNR report . Baseline figures and 2019 targets for selected existing national indicators were included.	Reporting on baselines to inform 2030 Agenda implementation in VNR reporting is good practice.
Finland	2016	In Finland, an independent analysis - carried out by the Finnish Environment Institute and the think tank, Demos Helsinki - on the country's readiness to implement the Agenda 2030 was conducted based on a mapping exercise. The analysis focused on drawing a baseline for implementing the SDGs and to identify the areas requiring further attention. On the basis of indicators, perspectives of stakeholder groups and literature review, the outcome report, Avain2030 , shows that Finland's particular strengths are educational provision and societal stability while the policies are weak in term of climate change and natural resource management. The inclusion of various stakeholders (including members of the National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee) in the process would be scaled up through a participatory political process in advance of deciding how the SDGs and its specific targets will be reflected during preparations of the national implementation plan.	Support for independent assessments of gaps and contributions to baseline setting is good practice.
Georgia	2016	In the process of nationalising the SDGs, the Government of Georgia has engaged in a review process . Starting with 14 out of 17 SDGs, a baseline was fixed for the specific targets, which were subsequently adjusted for the Georgian case. During the consultation stage, line-ministries worked with international experts identified with the UN Agencies active in the country to define indicators for tracking the progress in achieving the specific targets. The entire process engaged all government bodies and asked them to provide evidence-based priorities and indicators relevant to their area of work, reflecting the SDGs. Technical working groups on Human Rights and Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, Economic Growth and Environment Protection were created to support the process. Geostat, the national statistical institute of the country, was assigned to prepare localised SDG indicators and collect and provide data for national reporting. In addition, Georgia provided an excerpt on baselines fixed for each SDG target, alongside complementary national indicators and forecasts for 2030 in its VNR report .	Although not all SDGs were included in the review, the technical working groups relate to transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda. Georgia also provided baselines in its VNR report, which is an element of good practice that contributes to transparency.

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Greece	2018	Greece engaged in a stock-taking analysis informed by the current state of the country in SDG implementation in an attempt to measure the distance to achieving sustainable development targets. This included a detailed mapping exercise on all the national policies and legal frameworks relevant to the SDGs. The mapping specifically focussed on gaps and missing policy instruments since many of the policies on sustainable development were already captured by the relevant EU frameworks. The outcome of this exercise pointed to the gaps in cross-sectoral cooperation to ensure coherent policies and disseminate best practices both at the domestic level and through cross-country development partnerships (bilateral and international). For transparency and accountability purposes a wide range of non-state actors was included. The results of the mapping were that all policy instruments and legal frameworks were pulled together to address cross-sectoral cooperation and gaps in the national budget on implementing the SDGs.	The mapping process included non-state actors to ensure transparency and accountability.
Ireland	2018	Ireland mapped its sectoral policies against the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs while preparing its SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020 . The aim of the mapping exercise was to (i) determine the exact policies that were most compatible with the respective SDGs and associated targets, and (ii) explore the scope of interlinkages between different national policies that can support multiple SDGs. The outcome document, the SDG Policy Map assigns implementation of the policies to different departments of the government on a target-by-target basis. The SDG Policy Map is publicly available and will be a useful tool for stakeholders to track Ireland's response to SDG implementation and potential policy gaps.	The mapping process identified responsible government institutions and information was made publicly available.
Kenya	2017	Kenya's VNR report states that the country set baselines for most of SDG indicators between 2009 and 2014.	The provision of information on available baselines in VNR reports is good practice.
Latvia	2018	Latvia assessed the SDGs at the target level against national policies. The country looked at the relevance of SDG targets, identified responsible government institutions and mapped global indicators for the 169 targets to compare Latvia's performance. A conference was organized to discuss the SDG framework applied to Latvian policies. Mid-term assessments of sectoral policies will review gaps between SDG targets and Latvian policy indicators.	Ensuring 2030 Agenda implementation is informed by relevant targets and indicators, and a clear understanding of data gaps is good practice.
Lithuania	2018	An analysis of compatibility between the national strategic policy documents and Agenda 2030 has been carried out by Lithuania. A good level of alignment has been found as a result of the analysis. The country has formed a technical working group set by Statistics Lithuania and with	Ensuring 2030 Agenda implementation is informed by relevant targets and

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		the participation of governmental departments and organisations responsible for data collection on particular indicators. The working group analysed indicators developed by the United Nations. Based on the results, a set of national indicators were created in order to guide SDG implementation in the country. Draft indicators were supplied to the National Commission on Sustainable Development.	indicators, and a clear understanding of data gaps is good practice.
Mali	2018	Mali identified priority targets for 2030 Agenda implementation through a process that included national and regional workshops. The process set out a list of responsible institutions in addition to assessing policy alignment and data gaps.	The selection of national priority targets supports ownership.
Panama	2017	In June 2017, Panama launched its first multidimensional index (MPI) , developed by the University of Oxford , to complement the existing poverty measures. MPI enabled Panama both to have clearer idea on the number of people living in multidimensional poverty and to improve the management of social policies targeting the dimensions measured in the index. The MPI is made up of 17 indicators focusing on deprivations in five dimensions: (i) Housing, basic services and internet, (ii) education, (iii) employment, (iv) health, and (v) environment, neighbourhood and sanitation. The measure gauges not only the incidence of poverty but also its intensity and topography as well as deprivation of households, the effectiveness of public policy responses targeting poverty. The first results emanating from the MPI suggests that the incidence and severity of multidimensional poverty is higher for the indigenous regions. The multidimensionality is in keeping with a holistic understanding of the SDGs and ensured cross-sectoral collaboration across different government agencies and stakeholders to design policies to address leaving no one behind.	The approach respects the integrated nature of the SDGs. Also, the MPI is an attempt to identify policy gaps relating to leaving no one behind.
Philippines	2016	In the Philippines, the National Economic and Development Authority organized two technical workshops in 2015 and 2016 with participation by civil society organizations, academic institutions, donors and government institutions to identify data availability as well as assess, agree on and prioritize national indicators.	The selection of national indicators supports ownership. The assessment of data availability is important for informing efforts to improve statistical capacities.
Spain	2018	Spain conducted a mapping exercise to identify what has already been done by government agencies on implementing the SDGs as part of its VNR. The cumulative approach undertaken focussed on (i) diagnostic elements on the current stance and baseline of the specific targets;	The process was inclusive and participatory and developed an information base from

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		(ii) identifying main challenges decision-makers face in fulfilling the targets; (iii) current state of play in regard to the main stakeholders involved. The outcome of the mapping exercise was a publicly accessible database showing the contribution of the Spanish Central Administration to each SDGs, position papers by the key stakeholders and a framework documents for each goal in May 2018.	which to adopt a whole-of-society approach to implementation.
Senegal	2018	To nationalize the 2030 Agenda, Senegal identified a set of national-level targets for each SDG. The VNR report included SDG targets, global and national indicators, responsible government institutions, baselines (where available) and available data for 2015, 2016 and 2017. The country's targets for 2030 were also included for some indicators.	The selection of national targets supports ownership. The provision of information on available baselines in VNR reports is good practice.
Sierra Leone	2016	Sierra Leone pointed to 56 draft indicators and provisional baselines and targets for the years 2020, 2025 and 2030.	The selection of national targets supports ownership. The provision of information on available baselines in VNR reports is good practice.
Sri Lanka	2018	Sri Lanka carried out an assessment of policies and data. The policy assessment looked at alignment between national policies and the SDGs. A review of statistical information was conducted to establish baselines. A report titled Status of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators in Sri Lanka and a website with the SDG indicator framework were prepared. This information was also reported in the country's VNR report. Sri Lanka provided an overview of the various gap assessments carried out in the country, including information on alignment between existing policies and the 2030 Agenda as well as data availability.	Ensuring 2030 Agenda implementation is informed by an understanding of policy and data gaps is good practice.
Switzerland	2018	Immediately following the unanimous adoption of Agenda 2030, the Swiss Federal Council engaged in a comprehensive baseline and gap analysis in regard to the status of implementation nation-wide. The analysis covered each one of the 169 targets and involved both international and domestic contributions by Switzerland. The analysis was a good starting point to address the gaps found in a targeted way. Many cantons and communes decided on their own priorities and strategies for sustainable development. In its 2018 VNR report , Switzerland provided results on emerging trends with respect to progress on national targets in the goal-by-goal analysis.	Reporting on baselines and trends in progress is good practice. The baseline and gap analysis was also inclusive and participatory.

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		To ensure inclusivity, meetings and online consultations were held with organizations that protect the interests of groups at risk of being left behind, such as low-income individuals, migrants or victims of human trafficking. A lesson from Switzerland’s experience is to ensure that there is adequate capacity to process received data and inputs.	